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Crime prevention and criminal justice

African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders: programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.22

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 6 and 9 of draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.22, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General:

(a) To provide the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) with the core Professional staff required to enable it to function effectively in fulfilling its mandated obligations;

(b) To make concrete proposals to strengthen the programmes and activities of the Institute and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the draft resolution.

2. UNAFRI was established in 1987 by the Economic Commission for Africa. In accordance with the statute of the Institute, its administrative and programme costs are to be financed by the assessed contributions of African member States under a specific scale of assessment, while its operational activities are to be funded through various voluntary contributions. As indicated in the reports of the Secretary-General (A/53/381 and A/54/340), the total resources of the Institute for the biennium 1998-1999 amounted to $813,821. These funds were derived from: (a) assessed contributions from member States; (b) the grant from the United Nations regular budget; (c) grants for specific projects; and (d) other income received from the rental of parts of the premises and facilities and interest on deposits.

3. The United Nations grant to UNAFRI was initially approved for the biennium 1992-1993 by the General Assembly in its resolution 46/153 of 18 December 1991. The grant in the amount of $204,800 was to cover the costs of the posts of Director and Deputy Director and part of the administrative costs of the Institute. Since then, the grant has

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continued to be included in the regular budget of the United Nations for subsequent bienniums in the same amount, including in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

4. As indicated in paragraph 29 of the Secretary-General's report (A/54/340), as at July 1999, out of total assessed contributions of $2,540,816 for the period from 1989 to 1999, only $333,294 had been received, leaving an outstanding balance of $2,207,522.

5. For a number of years, four core Professional staff posts of the Institute (2 P-4, 1 P-3 and 1 P-2/1) have been frozen owing to lack of resources. In order to perform its functions, the Institute had to rely on the Director, the Deputy Director, a finance officer and seven General Service staff.

6. It is estimated that three Professional posts (2 P-4 and 1 P-3) would be required to strengthen the existing Professional staff of the Institute. The functions to be carried out in regard to those posts would be as follows:

(a) A Training Adviser (P-4) would be responsible for coordinating and implementing all the training activities of the Institute, including seminars, workshops, courses, internships and fellowships, expert meetings and other training initiatives;

(b) A Research Analyst (P-4) would be responsible for coordinating and implementing all the research activities of the Institute, including surveys, special studies, in- depth case studies, evaluative studies and other innovative initiatives as a basis for policy and programme development in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice; undertaking a comprehensive assessment and identification of the research needs and priorities of member States; and formulating a detailed research programme of the Institute on this basis;

(c) An Information/Documentation Adviser (P-3) would be responsible for the continuous development, organization and maintenance of the Institute's information system and documentation centre in the context of the global United Nations crime information network.

7. It is estimated that the costs of these posts would amount to $175,500 for the biennium 2000-2001. As mentioned above, a proposal for a grant of $204,800 for UNAFRI is included under section 16, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.[1] It would seem that the most appropriate procedure to provide UNAFRI with the requirements entailed by draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.22 would be by increasing the amount of the grant by $175,500.

8. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the proposed programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred to a later biennium.

9. No activities could be identified, at this stage, for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification under section 16, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001 in order to accommodate the additional requirements of $175,500 referred to above.

10. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.22, an additional provision of $175,500 would be required over and above the resources included under

section 16, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000–2001.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/54/6/Rev.1).